

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Group Art Unit: 1646
Tau-San Chou : Examiner: D. FOX
Serial No.: 08/903,544 : Atty. Dkt. No. 89166/107
Filed: ~~Sept. 11, 1998~~ :
For: July 31, 1997
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER
37 C.F.R. §1.56 and 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) and (e) (1)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on a modified Form PTO-1449 is a listing of a documents known to applicants in order to comply with applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.99.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

Applicants submit these documents below under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1), before the mailing date of either a final action under §1.113 or of a Notice of Allowance under §1.311. Accordingly a certification under §1.97(e)(1) is included.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in

this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

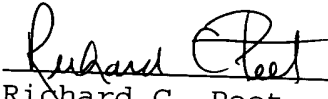
RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Any document listed on the attached PTO-1449 was cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding international application. A copy of the International Search Report is attached. All of the documents are in English, although it is noted that the absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the Patent and Trademark Office from its duty to consider any submitted document (37 C.F.R. §1.98 and M.P.E.P. §609).

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialled copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with M.P.E.P. §609.

Respectfully submitted,

April 1, 1999
Date


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